

What is claimed is:

1. A method of making a facepiece insert that has at least one fluid communication component, which method comprises:

- 5 (a) providing at least one supporting portion of a facepiece insert;
(b) providing at least one fluid communication component separately from the supporting portion of the facepiece insert; and
(c) securing the at least one fluid communication component to the at least one supporting portion.

10 2. A method of making a respiratory mask body, which method comprises the steps of claim 1 and further comprises:

- (d) securing a compliant face-contacting member to the facepiece insert.

3. A method of making a respiratory mask, which method comprises the steps of claim 2 and further comprises:

- (e) securing a harness to the mask body.

15 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising providing at least one filter cartridge that is capable of being attached to the at least one fluid communication component.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one fluid communication component is a critical tolerance component.

20 6. The method of claim 2, wherein the at least one fluid communication component is a critical tolerance component.

7. The method of claim 3, wherein the at least one fluid communication component is a critical tolerance component.

25 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one supporting portion of the facepiece insert and the at least one fluid communication component are made from similar polymeric materials and are fused together.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one fluid communication component has a tolerance of less than 0.15 millimeters.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one fluid communication component has a tolerance of less than 0.1 millimeters.

5 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one fluid communication component has a tolerance of less than 0.05 millimeters.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the supporting portion of the facepiece insert has a tolerance of about 0.16 to 0.3.

13. A facepiece insert that comprises:

- 10 (a) a supporting portion; and
(b) a fluid communication component that is non-integrally joined to the supporting portion.

14. A respiratory mask body that comprises the facepiece insert of claim 13, and further comprises a compliant face contacting member that is non-integrally joined to the supporting portion of the facepiece insert.
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15. The respiratory mask body of claim 14, wherein the fluid communication component has a tolerance of 0.15 or less, and wherein the supporting portion has a tolerance of about 0.16 mm or greater.

16. A respiratory mask, that comprises the mask body of claim 14, and further includes a harness for supporting the mask body over a person's nose and mouth.
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17. A respiratory mask, that comprises the mask body of claim 14, and further includes a filter cartridge for supporting the mask body over a person's nose and mouth.

18. The respiratory mask of claim 16, wherein the fluid communication component comprises part of an inhalation valve.

25 19. The respiratory mask of claim 16, wherein the fluid communication component comprises part of an exhalation valve.

20. A respiratory mask of claim 16, wherein the fluid communication component has a tolerance of 0.15 or less, and wherein the supporting portion has a tolerance of about 0.16 to 0.3 mm.

21. The respiratory mask of claim 16, wherein the supporting portion and the fluid communication component are fused together.

22. A respiratory mask that comprises:

(A) a mask body that includes:

(1) a facepiece insert that includes:

(a) a supporting portion;

(b) at least one fluid communication component that is non-integrally joined to the supporting portion and that is a critical tolerance component; and

(2) a compliant face-contacting member that is non-integrally joined to the supporting portion of the facepiece insert; and

(B) a harness for supporting the mask body at least over a person's nose and mouth.

23. The respiratory mask of claim 23, further comprising at least one filter cartridge that is secured to the mask body at a location where the fluid communication component resides.